

Urban Biodiversity Week Calendar of Events May 13 – 19, 2013



MONDAY, MAY 13

Hegewisch Marsh Tours – 2-3 pm, May 13

Organized by Chicago Park District and Greencorps Chicago

Location: 13200-13298 S Torrence Ave, Chicago IL 60633

Join Greencorps staff on a tour showcasing Hegewisch Marsh. During the tour, learn about the history of the site, restoration work completed to date, future restoration plans for the site, site's significance amongst other efforts in the Calumet region, and value of site as restored habitat.

Please wear boots that can get wet or muddy, bring binoculars if you have them and a rain jacket just in case. We will be walking on woodchips most of the time (the path is not recommended for strollers).

Parking location and meeting site will be determined approximately a week prior to the event. Please note that there is ongoing construction on S. Torrence Avenue. Please check www.urbanbioweek.illinois.gov for updates on parking and site access.

To register, contact Greencorps main office at 312-746-9777

Garlic Mustard Pull – 6 to 7 pm, May 13

Organized by Calumet Ecological Park Association

Location: East 112th Street and Avenue E, Chicago IL 60617 (entrance to Eggers Grove)

Volunteers are welcome to join John Pastirik at Eggers Grove Forest Preserve at to pull an invasive plant called garlic mustard. Meet at the caretakers building. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, bring gloves, and dress for the weather. For more information call John, Calumet Ecological Park Association, at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Bird Walk – 8 to 10:30 am, May 14

Organized by Sand Ridge Audubon Society

Location: 15890 Paxton Avenue, South Holland IL 60473

Sand Ridge Nature Center is conducting a Naturalist-led bird walk around their grounds on Tuesday, May 14th. Bring your binoculars and enjoy the many trails and birds found at Sand Ridge! Meet at the front entrance of the building, which is just a short walk from the parking lot. The Nature Center has some binoculars available to loan to visitors, free of charge.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Fay's Point Tour – 6 to 7pm, May 15

Organized by City of Blue Island

Location: Fay's Point Marina, Blue Island IL 60406

Join Jason Berry on a walking tour of Fay's Point. Meet by the Pavilion Tent in the Fay's Point Marina parking lot. The tour combines industrial and architectural history, American Indian legends, French traders, waterways and rivers, wetlands, restoration, bird watching, frogs, bugs, snakes, green infrastructure, and active transportation.

Directions: Fay's Point Marina is located on Broadway street, east of intersection of Broadway street and S. Ashland Avenue. Mapping websites often show the location as 1327 Broadway Street, Blue Island, IL 60406. In order to reach the meeting place, keep going east past 1327 Broadway street until you arrive at the parking lot.

Hegewisch Marsh Tour – 4:30 to 5:30 pm, May 15

Organized by Chicago Park District and Greencorps Chicago

Location: 13200-13298 S Torrence Ave Chicago, IL 60633

Join Greencorps staff on a tour showcasing Hegewisch Marsh. During the tour, learn about the history of the site, restoration work completed to date, future restoration plans for the site, site's significance amongst other efforts in the Calumet region, and value of site as restored habitat.

Please wear boots that can get wet or muddy, bring binoculars if you have them and a rain jacket just in case. We will be walking on woodchips most of the time (the path is not recommended for strollers).

Parking location and meeting site will be determined approximately a week prior to the event. Please note that there is ongoing construction on S. Torrence Avenue. Please check www.urbanbioweek.illinois.gov for updates on parking and site access.

To register, contact Greencorps main office at 312-746-9777

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Cycling Tour – 10 am to 12 pm, May 16

Organized by Openlands

Location: 2200 Glenwood Lansing Road, Lynwood IL 60411 (entrance to parking lot)

Bring your bike and join Openlands on a biological and historical cycling visit to North Creek and Thorn Creek in Millennium Reserve. We will start the tour in the North Creek Meadow parking lot and then bicycle along the Thorn Creek Trail to learn about creek structure and water quality, different habitats and various critters, and the history of the area. At the end of the tour we can head over to Gabe's Place, a local favorite restaurant, to grab a bite for lunch.

Frog and Tadpole Hike – 10 am to 12 pm, May 16

Organized by US Fish and Wildlife Service and Chicago Park District

Location: 13200-13298 S Torrence Ave Chicago, IL 60633

Please join Mike Redmer, biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Chicago Park District for a frog hike at Hegewisch Marsh. Participants will have the opportunity to catch (and release) frogs living on site to identify different species and learn how they are adapted to urban greenspace. Other topics covered will include why frogs “call” and the natural history of frogs and other regional amphibians.

This will be a moderate-level walk for all ages (but note that path is not paved or recommended for strollers) – each participant should bring a sturdy pair of waterproof boots, bug spray and a one-gallon Ziploc bag to observe amphibians without harming them.

Please note that there is ongoing construction on S. Torrence Avenue. Please check www.urbanbioweek.illinois.gov for updates on parking and site access.

Green Thumb Thursdays – 7 to 7:45 pm, May 16

Organized by U of I Extension Master Gardeners, City of Blue Island, Evangelical Community Church of Blue Island

Location: 2237 W. 120th Street, Blue Island IL 60406

Green Thumb Thursdays is a free, monthly presentation about creating beautiful gardens to absorb rain water. Presentations are held on the third Thursday of each month in the Evangelical Community Church, in the Fellowship Hall. Please see <http://www.blueisland.org/wp-content/uploads/garden-workshop-event-flyer.pdf> for more information.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Tour of the MWRD Deep Tunnel Project – 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, May 17 – *Pre-registration closed*

Organized by Southeast Environmental Task Force

Location: Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 E. 130th St., Chicago, IL

The Southeast Environmental Task Force and staff at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (WWRD) will conduct a tour of the Deep Tunnel project at the Calumet Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WRP) before departing by coach bus to visit deep below the earth at the Thornton Quarry, where the MWRD has developed their floodwater emergency reservoir.

Attendance for this exciting tour is limited to one busload of visitors, and it's sure to fill up fast! Make your reservations early to guarantee a seat, and to fulfill proper i.d. requirements.

Details:

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Tour the Calumet WRP, depart at 10:30 on coach bus

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Tour the Thornton Reservoir, depart at 12:30 p.m. on bus to return to cars at Calumet WRP

Mighty Acorns Year-End Celebration – 9 am to 3 pm, May 17

Organized by Field Museum

Location: William Powers State Recreation Area

The Mighty Acorns® program introduces thousands of 4th through 6th graders to nature and conservation stewardship in the Chicagoland area each year through activities based on education, restoration, and exploration. This year-end celebration will be a gathering of about 400 students who have been active at the William Powers site this year. The event is not open to the public.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Nature Block Party: Celebrating Urban Biodiversity - 9 am to 3 pm, May 18

Organized by Forest Preserve District of Cook County and Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Location: East 112th Street and Avenue E, Chicago IL 60617 (Eggers Woods) and 12949 Avenue O, Chicago IL 60633 (William Powers State Recreation Area)

Bring your family and join us for a fun-filled day at Eggers Woods and William Powers! Nature enthusiasts of all ages will find something fun to do. Planned activities for the day include a garlic mustard pull, tree hike, bird hike, biking, fishing, archery, and nature-themed games and art projects. Knowledgeable naturalist will be on hand to provide more information about local plants and wildlife. Bring your bike to enjoy the trails. The day will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Eggers Woods building.

Activities will include:

Garlic Mustard pull with John Pastirik (Eggers Woods)

Tree Hike with John Pastirik (Eggers Woods)

Bird Hike with Audubon's Wild Indigo - Led by safari guide Paul Mwangi Gitau (Eggers Woods)

Bike Helmet Give away (Eggers Woods)

Fishing (William Powers)

Archery (William Powers)

Booth staffed by Sand Ridge Nature Center naturalist (along trail between Eggers Woods and William Powers)

Ribbon Cutting Celebration for Eggers Woods building with snack

Please note, activities are subject to change. Please check www.urbanbioweek.illinois.gov for updated list of events planned for the day.

Bi-state Bike Ride around Wolf Lake – 8:15 to 10:30 am, May 18

Organized by Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative

Location: 12949 Avenue O, Chicago IL 60633 (William Powers State Recreation Area)

Bring your bike and join Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) on a bike ride around the Wolf Lake watershed, starting at William Powers and encircling Wolf Lake. Showcased along the route will be the Calumet Container brownfield; Environmental Education Center in Hammond with its indoor trout stream; Wolf Lake Park with its Pavilion, aquatic play center, and flower garden; George Lake trail; Whiting Park; Whihala Beach; Eggers Grove; and the Burnham Greenway. We will come back to William Powers to enjoy other activities planned for that day.

Meeting time and place: 8:15 a.m. Saturday, May 18 near Shelter 2. Bring water and you also may wish to bring camera and/or field glasses. Please note, a parent or guardian must accompany minors. Portion of course will use city streets. Entire course will be safe for road bikes.

If you plan to participate, please advise by email (awli@sbcglobal.net) or phone (219 933-7149 or 312-220-0120).

Tour of Powderhorn Prairie Nature Preserve – 11 am to 1pm, May 18

Organized by Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Friends of the Forest Preserves, and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Location: 13817-14451 South Brainard Avenue, Burnham, IL 60633

Join knowledgeable naturalists on a walking tour of Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh Nature Preserve (the only nature preserve located in the City of Chicago). During the tour, you will learn about the dune and swale topography and associated plant communities that were once the hallmark of the Chicago Lake Plain section. We will keep an eye and ear out for birds, and we will talk about how the site is being managed with the support of the landowner, partners, and volunteers.

Meet at the end of the Powderhorn Lake Parking Lot (next to Kiosk) located off Brainard (just east of the intersection of Brainard and Burnham Avenue). Bring hiking boots, water, camera, and a hat. The site can be wet, so please plan to get dirty.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Migrant Shorebirds at MWRD Calumet Water Reclamation Plant – 8:30 am to 12 pm, May 19

-Pre-registration closed

Organized by Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Audubon Society

Location: Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 E. 130th Street in Chicago

Join Walter Marcisz at the MWRD Calumet Water Reclamation Plant in southeast Chicago, an excellent location to view migrant shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, etc) as well as other migrant bird species. Bring binoculars and a field guide (a spotting scope is also recommended if you have one).

Canoeing on Powderhorn Lake – time TBD, May 19

Organized by Illinois Department of Natural Resources and TBD

Location: 13817-14451 South Brainard Avenue, Burnham, IL 60633

Join us for canoeing activities on Powderhorn Lake. A limited number of canoes will be available for a guided paddle around the lake. Each canoe can accommodate 3 people, approximate minimum age is 6 years old. Each canoe requires an adult and another individual of paddle-able age (around 9 years old). Personal floatation devices will be provided to all participants. Please register at www.urbanbioweek.illinois.gov

Lakes, Rivers, Marshes, Migratory Birds, Open Spaces, and Dumps(ugh!) - A Hike of the Calumet – 9 am, May 19

Organized by Wandering Nomads

Location: 12949 Avenue O, Chicago IL 60633 (William Powers State Recreation Area)

Join the Wandering Nomads and the Chicago Hiking Meet-Up Group for this fascinating walk through one of the city's most-diverse, unique areas. The walk starts at William Powers Conservation Area and finishes at Harborside International Golf Course at Lake Calumet. Approximate distance of the hike is 7.5 Miles - mostly on pavement. For those who wish to enjoy lunch or refreshments afterwards, Harborside has a fine restaurant & bar, with a great view overlooking Lake Calumet. For further details: call Lloyd at 312-720-6864 or Tom at 773-370-3305.